True Stories Related.

NEW-YORK:

Published by Samuel Wood & Sons,
And Samuel S. Wood & Co.
Baltimore.

Marice Josephine
Litch,s Book

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True Stories

RELATED.

BY

A FRIEND TO LITTLE CHILDREN.

New-York:

PUBLISHED BY SAMUEL WOOD & SONS,
NO. 261, PEARL-STREET,
And Samuel S. Wood & Co No. 212, Market-st.
Baltimore.

1819.

PREFACE.

LITTLE FOLKS are apt to be fond of Stories; and many, taking advantage of this disposition, have, unmindful of consequences, been guilty of poisoning the infant and vacant mind, with not only false, but ridiculous and baneful Stories; which taking fast hold of the unoccupied mind, have filled the place that should have been stored with something useful and comfortable. What advantage can be derived from the Stories of Hobgoblins, Enchanted Castles, Fairies, &c.? But though children are fond of stories, yet their value is enhanced in their view by knowing them to be authentic. How common it is, for them to inquire, on hearing one told Is it true? and on being answered in the affirmative, they evidently value it much higher. It is certainly paying a very poor compliment to the understanding and taste of children, to suppose they are not capable of being pleased with any thing but Fiction and Romance: and that, therefore, their little volumes must be filled with such stuff as the battle of Tom

Thumb and the Bumble-Bee, the exploits of Gulliver among the Lilliputians, the Descent of Sinbad into the Valley of Diamonds, &c: Children, like adults, if their taste is not first vitiated with such extravagant, wild, and high seasoned things, will be pleased, and, it is presumed, better pleased with simple narrations of plain facts. What but a depraved taste, poisoned by habit, could make a blooming youth prefer novels, plays, and romances, to the Sacred Records, and other useful writings? But, alas! very many such instances there are. And how much to be pitied is the youth, whose inestimable time has been wasted in studies of this kind: and whose mind by this means has been stored with such a magazine of trash!

True Stories Related.

Wicked and Unmannerly Children.

A LONG time ago, long before old Columbus crossed the trackless deep in quest of a new Continent, or Western World; we read, there were naughty children, as there are but too many in these days; children whose parents probably had not done their duty in giving them suitable counsel and admonition, in teaching them to distinguish the right from the wrong way, and in explaining to them what was becoming and mannerly behaviour, and what not: what was sinful, and what not; what would befall the wicked, and what would be the reward of virtue.—We find it recorded in ancient history, that in those days there was a

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company of wicked children, that saw a pious man, who it appears, by reason of age, had grown bald, pass by; they made a mock of him, and in derision said, "Go up thou bald head, go up thou bald head." By what followed, we may see, how very wicked it is for children to make a mock of others; for, the pious old man noticed, and highly disapproved their conduct; and there came two bears out of the wood, and destroyed 42 of them!

What a dreadful judgment on those wicked children; and what a sore affliction it must be to their

parents, thus to be deprived of their children, in such a sudden and violent manner! especially, when they had to reflect, that their death was the price of their folly and wickedness; an admonition to all parents who read the story, to train up their children in the fear of the Lord, which would preserve them from evil: and to children to be dutiful to their parents, and to behave in a mannerly and becoming manner to all mankind. For the truth of this story, I would refer my readers to a very ancient record, in a book that is too much neglected, though the best book in the world: I mean the Bible. See the second Book of Kings, chap ii. verses 23 & 24.

OUR tongues were made to bless the Lord,
And not speak ill of men;
When others give a railing word,
We must not rail again.

Cross words and angry names require
To be chastis'd at school;
And he's in danger of hell fire,
That calls his brother fool.

But lips that dare be so profane,
To mock, and jeer, and scoff
At holy things or holy men,
The Lord shall shall cut them off.

When children in their wanton play
Serv'd old Elisha so,
And bid the prophet go his way,
"Go up, thou bald head, go."

God quickly stopp'd their wicked breath,
And sent two raging bears,
That tore them limb from limb to death,
With blood, and groans, and tears.

Great God, how terrible art thou,
To sinners e'er so young!
Grant me thy grace, and teach me how,
To tame and rule my tongue.

The Fatherless Boy.

A CERTAIN little boy, when a little more than two years of age, was deprived of a fond father, and thus left to struggle through life without a father's care and advice. This little boy was peculiarly fond of learning, and spent many an hour while other children where busy at their play, with his book and his slate, and his improvement was of course rapid; though he greatly lacked the advantages many now-a-days enjoy, of good and regular schools, and a variety of well chosen books. His love for his studies was so great, that there was no need to urge him to go to school, but he would frequently be the first there, although he lived at the distance of about two

miles, and used to have to trudge with his dinner basket in his hand,

over the fences, across the fields and through a wood; and many a time have his little bare feet been severely hurt in passing through the stubble, or among the briers; yet, these were no discouragement to his industry, in the pursuit of learning, which truly is more valuable than silver or gold. However, although this boy was very attentive to his studies, at seasons, as well as others he was delighted with the usual recreations of children; one of which he was very fond of, that of going

into the water; and there being a pond in the field, not very far from the school-house, he with others, used frequently to retire thither to spend their noon spell in bathing and learning to swim; and being so delighted therewith, he mentioned it to his mother at home, who being a very timid woman, and very fearful of the water, told him to go no more, lest he got drowned; and added, "Mind, I tell you so."

This was the best advice she knew how to give; but the mother's advice did not prevent him from pursuing the practice of going into the

water; and at one time he and another boy went to swim in a pond where he was unacquainted with the depth of water, and boldness of the shores. He had not yet practised enough to venture to swim where the water was deep, without something to support him, such as a rail, stake, or the like. In this pond, these boys were striving to see who could swim the fastest; our little boy, with a stick under him, and the other without; and the other boy stopping and putting his feet downwards appeared to stand on the bottom, when this little boy leaped off his stick, but found himself plunged in the water over his head. Alarmed, indeed, and with the water gushing into his lungs as fast as his nose and mouth could receive it, he here expected to end his days; and at this awful moment, almost the first thing that entered his mind, and that with weight, was the command of his mother; but by his own efforts, and that of his compan-

ion, he was in mercy saved from a watery grave. In this time of distress and affright, his exertions seemed to be pretty much that of leaping up and down; and at one leap, his eyes were raised above the water, when he saw his companion making for the shore, and leaving him; however, when his companion got foothold, he ventured as near this suffering lad as he dared, and extending his arm, caught him by the hand and pulled him out.

This little story will serve to prove, that, although children may not seem to attend to the advice of

a fond parent, whose only aim is the good of the child, yet often, like bread cast on the waters, it is found after many days; and especially when a trying time arrives, these things are often brought impressively into view.

Disobedience, Punishment, and Repentance.

NEARLY 3000 years ago, there was a very large city, in which, it was said, there were 120,000 persons who did not know their right hand from their left; this must be understood to be very young children; of course, the whole number of inhabitants must have been very great. Now, the sins and wickedness of this people had become so great, that the great Lord of the universe ordered one of his prophets to go and cry against it: but he, through fear of man, or from some other cause, disobeyed the command of his God; for, he rose up to flee to another place from the presence of the Lord, and went on board a ship for that purpose; but the Lord caused a tempest to arise, in which the ship was like to be broken, and the sailors were in great fear, and

called on their God for help in the time of trouble. But the prophet at that time lay asleep: and they awoke him, and advised him also to call on his God for help. Now it appears they discovered on waking the prophet, that he had disobeyed the voice of his God, and he being sensible this had been sent for his transgression, advised them to throw him into the sea, and they took him up and cast him overboard.

And the storm was hushed, and the sea became calm. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered sacrifices to the Lord, and

made vows. And a great fish, prepared of the Lord, swallowed up the disobedient prophet: and he was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. In this distress, he remembered his God, whom he had disobeyed, and cried unto the Lord, and prayed to the Almighty God, who created the universe and every living thing; and the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out the prophet on dry land.

He was humbled, and with a grateful heart, expressed himself in these words: "I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard

me ; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas : and the floods compassed me about ; all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward the holy temple. The waters compassed me about even to the soul ; the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains ; the earth with her bars were about me forever : yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord, my God. When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with a voice of thanksgiving ; I will pay that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."

The prophet being again set at liberty, and receiving a second command from the Lord, to go and preach unto this great and wicked city, having learned from the things which he had suffered, the necessity of obedience, he arose and went into it, and he cried against it, and told them that within 40 days it should be destroyed. And the people repented at the preaching of the prophet, and humbled themselves, and with fasting and prayer, covered with sackcloth; and the Lord accepted their prayers, and pardoned them, and the city was spared.

Such little children as are desirous to know the name of the city, the prophet, and more of the particulars of this interesting and remarkable story, may turn to the Book of Jonah, in the Bible.

The Robin relieved.

AS a countryman was riding along a road that led into a wood, he discovered a Robin fast to a bush by a string, which probably she had taken to assist in building her nest, but by some means, had got entangled with it. The poor bird was fluttering, in vain endeavouring to escape; its mate in distress was hovering near, unable to give relief; but how must its anguish have been increased on beholding the approaching steps of a *man*, with outstretched arm and expanded hand, about to grasp its companion.

The little sufferer was carefully taken from the bush, the threads or strings cleared from its foot, when the unexpected relief was given; and the bird gave full scope to its wings, who with its mate flew rejoicing to the neighbouring wood, and the traveller, participating the pleasure, pursued his business.

On the rescue of a Redbreast entangled in a vine, at the moment a Hawk was ready to seize it.

THE morning was fair and serene,
The fields clad in verdant array:
The birds added life to the scene,
As they sportively sang on the spray.

The dew-drops bespangled each tree,
Each herd, and each flow'ret, with gems ;
The eye was delighted to see,
How they sparkled in the sun's beams.

All nature was cheerful and gay,
Not a creature appeared to be sad,
Hilarity hail'd the new day,
All things seemed joyful and glad.

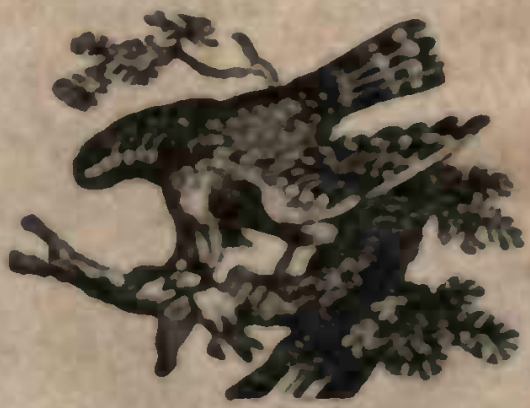
As I travell'd with Socious along,
And with him, partook of the bliss,
In an instant my joy was unstrung,
By a warbler that scream'd in distress.

In a vine, I a Redbreast beheld,
His feet in the tendrils entwin'd ;—
By pity's soft dictates impell'd,
To relieve him my soul was inclin'd.

Oh ! Socious, I cried,—quick he flew,
Without giving time to say more ;
For Socious by sympathy knew
What compassion but meant to implore.

That instant, a hawk, from the sky,
Was pouncing to seize on his prey ;
But pity taught Socious to fly,
And he snatch'd the poor captive away.

Then pressing him close to his breast,
With meltings of joy in his eye,
Go, captive, he cry'd, and be blest !
Whilst the bird spread his wings and did fly.



Daniel in the Lions' Den.

AT a very remote period of time, when the Jews, who are called the children of Israel, were captives in Babylon, having been carried into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar, there was a certain lad of the Israelites, by name Daniel, who on account of his pious zeal, was favoured of his God with wisdom and understanding: whereby he was drawn into the particular notice of the king Nebuchadnezzar, and his successors after him, the last of whom was named Darius, whose affection and partiality for Daniel were such as to excite the envy of his princes, who, putting their heads together, so contrived matters, as to have a decree passed of such a nature they were well assured righteous Daniel could not comply with; and watching him with an evil eye, they soon found occasion to accuse him of breaking the king's decree, and

thereby, as a punishment, had innocent Daniel cast into a den of lions, that he might be destroyed. But mark what followed; the wicked are often taken in the snares of their own laying, while the righteous are delivered from danger.—The God of Daniel whom he served, would not let the lions hurt him; for, though he was all night shut up with them, yet, in the morning, when the king came to the den, he found him alive; and Daniel said,

"My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch

as before him, innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt." Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God. And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them and broke all their bones in pieces before they came to the bottom of the den.

Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I make a decree, that in every dominion of my kingdom, men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and steadfast forever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

For a more particular account of this pious Israelite, the little reader is referred to the Book of Daniel, contained in the Scriptures of truth, in which are many other beautiful and extraordinary stories, which are highly worthy of attention, because they are true and to be relied on.

The Crane with a Broken Leg.

ABOUT 20 miles from New-York, a little east of New-Rochelle, and near the Sound, is a fresh water mill-pond, to which divers kinds of wild fowl resort. Amongt the rest, cranes are often seen wading in the water, with their long legs, in pursuit of their food, and flying backward and forward, to and from the salt water. Some years past, there was observed a large crane with one leg broken near the body. As she repeatedly flew over, while the other was extended as usual in flight directly backward, this broken one would swing below the bird.

This was a great detriment to the poor bird no doubt, besides the great pain occasioned thereby, both in flight, and when hopping about for food. Not long after this, one in this situation was found in Oyster-Bay, about 12 or 15 miles off, on Long-Island, nearly or quite famished to death. There is no doubt it was the same bird, and that she, through much pain and inability to procure her necessary support, thus pined away and died. The very sight of the bird, when flying, excited painful ideas and reflections; and it would be well for those who take delight in raising the death-dealing tube, to reflect on the excellent rule laid down by the pious William Law; "Kill nothing that does no harm living, or good dead:" and also, what many a poor bird has to suffer by a broken leg, or other wound, when not killed outright.

The dangerous effects of Fear in the Water.

WHEN a lad, I was at Cow-Harbour, about four miles east of Huntington, on Long-Island, in company with one or two lads on the shore. We were viewing two white boys and a black one amusing themselves in the water; it appeared, that the black boy, though he could swim, had not yet acquired confidence enough knowingly to venture into the water deeper than his head; but was swimming along apparently as well as the others, when one cries out, "Pump you are over your head;" on hearing which, he immediately began to sink, and with the water running into his mouth, cried out, as well as he could, "catch me, —catch me;"

and probably would have drowned, had he not received help: a strong proof of the effects of fear. A little practice will enable a person to float and move along on the water with ease. The greatest thing necessary in learning to swim, is to obtain a confidence in our abilities: when that is effected, a person commits himself to the water, and with ease and pleasure skims the surface, or dives beneath, and thus, in various attitudes, regales himself in the cleansing and bracing element, for a few minutes, and then comes out and enjoys the pleasing sensations that succeed, both to the body and mind.

The danger and sad effects of Gun-Powder.

IN the beginning of the American Revolution, powder became a very fashionable article; not to blast rocks, for the improvement of the fields, but for the more dreadful purpose of destroying the lives of human beings.

A little lad by the name of Thomas, had by some means, procured a small portion of this powerful article, with which, doubtless, he thought he would have some fine sport. He put his powder into a tobacco-box, on which he laid paper, and on that a coal of fire. He then got on his knees, and desired his play-mate, another boy less than himself, who seemed shy, to come nearer, and he would show him a trick. It appears his object was to enliven the coal, and then place it on

the lid, and so to have the pleasure of seeing the blast drive it away; but, simple child, while his head was directly over the box blowing the coal, the powder caught fire and exploded in his face,

by which the poor boy was sadly burned, and narrowly escaped with his eyes, which were blind for several days, and his face nearly all covered with one general scab. He suffered much; enough to teach him and other little children, that powder is a dangerous article, and improper for them to handle.

Not long after the preceding accident, a man who was very fond of shooting birds, and often used to go out into the bays and creeks, on the south-side of Long-Island, after wild geese, brant, ducks, &c. of which there are abundance in the winter season frequenting those waters, had a quarter of pound of powder or more wrapped in a paper in his pocket, and was sitting by his fire-side one evening, after his family had retired to rest, smoking his pipe; and by some means the fire got to his powder, and of course, made a terrible blast,

to the great alarm of his family, and

burned him exceedingly, so that for some time his life was considered in danger, but he recovered.

These, among very many accidents that might be related, show the sad and dangerous effects of this life-destroying invention, in the hands of both old and young. In addition to the two foregoing, a sad catastrophe of very recent date, shows the great necessity of care in those who have any thing to do with gun-powder.

Extract from the New-York Gazette, Oct. 21, 1811 :—On Thursday morning last, at 4 o'clock, the Schooner Malinda, Captain Brown, bound for New-York, while lying at Bombay Hook, caught fire near the binacle it is supposed, which communicated to 30 casks of Gun-Powder. A dreadful explosion followed : the vessel was shivered to pieces, every soul on board, 10 in number, (one person excepted) perished. The person who was saved,

after the explosion, found himself entangled in the shrouds ;

and although very much burnt, succeeded in climbing up the mast, from which he was taken at day light, and brought up to town that morning; he has been conveyed to the Hospital, where every care will be taken of him. Besides the crew, there were four passengers ; 2 women, and 2 men. Captain Brown has a family in New-York, to whom this melancholy news will prove particularly affecting. The passengers were wheel-rights, moving to New-York, for employment.

The Tractable Bird.

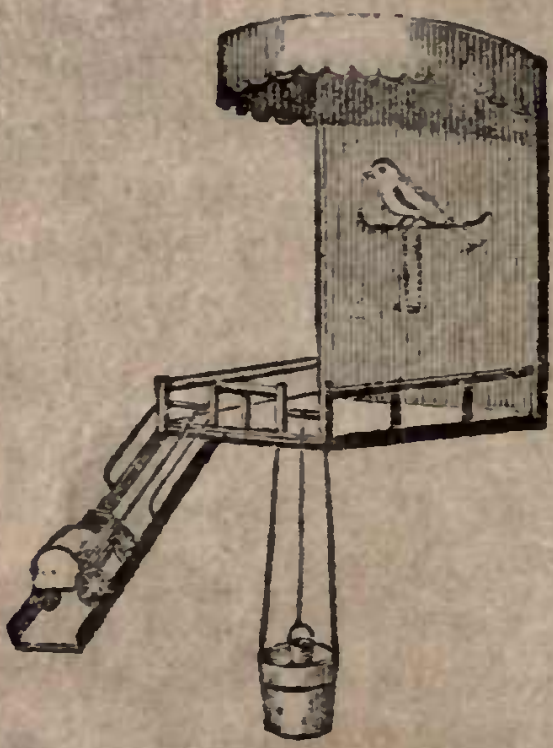
PASSING down Chatham-street one day, I observed a company of people standing in front of a house, looking upward on the house. On drawing nearer, I discovered their attention was excited by a beautiful little Yellow Bird, though not in a cage, yet a *prisoner;* for, it was confined by a small chain which proceeded from his breast, and was made fast to a string that passed round his body, beneath his feathers. The chain allowed him the liberty of walking or flying about 12 inches; but the manœuvres of this little flutterer, which would often expand his pretty wings as though he were going quite off, but his chain would fetch him up, were such as almost to stagger belief. His situation was under a small canopy, on the top of an upright board, in which, about half way down, was

fixed a small bow for him to perch on, and to which one end of his chain was made fast; and on the bottom of the board a platform was projected, about 8 or 10 inches square; this platform was the bird's limits. At one corner of the platform hung a small tumbler of water, perhaps 4 or 6 inches below the platform, and beyond the scope of the little chained bird; a small cup or bucket was fastened to the platform by a thread, directly over the tumbler, which when down, hung in the water, and at the other corner a small paper wagon of birdseed was fastened by a string on a descending board, about 8 or 10 inches long, which, when left to itself, remained at the lower end of the board. This little bird, as hunger or thirst impelled, would descend from its perch, and draw up the bucket or wagon, and after slacking its thirst or satisfying its hunger, let go the strings, and they would each descend to

their station, and there remain till the calls of nature made it necessary to renew the task ; the manner of doing which was this :—the bird standing on the corner of the platform, seized the string with its bill and pulling it up a little, set its foot on the string, to secure it there till it renewed its hold with its bill lower on the string, and again drew it further, and again set its foot thereon, and so on till it got the bucket or wagon near enough to drink or eat.

The preceding cut is a front view of the little bird and his place of confinement, with his wagon of seed and tumbler of water.

This cut represents the profile of the little prisoner's habitation, &c.



If the time taken, or the pains used, to teach this little feathered creature, were as useful as curious, or rendered it proportionably happier, the task would be commendable: but if the reverse, would it not

be better to leave it to seek its own living in the fields and groves, where nature has bountifully provided, and instinct would lead; and the time consumed in training that bird, appropriated to something that would be really useful and necessary.

The sad effects of Wrestling.

THERE are many ways by which children recreate and exercise themselves; and it is a matter well worthy not only their own, but their friends, and caretaker's consideration, that their choice in the mode of amusement should be such as is the most innocent, healthful, and pleasant, and least liable to danger and accident—Of this kind, wrestling does not class; but it is a violent and dangerous exercise, frequently exciting the passions of the antagonists, if not ending with blows; and sometimes broken or dislocated bones, and other injuries are the consequence, to say nothing of torn and dirty clothes. In the course of my acquaintance, I knew a couple of lads about 10 or 12 years of age, who, by the instigation of some inconsiderate men, were induced to try their strength and agility in this way; the consequence was a broken arm

to the least of the two, and that in such a shocking manner, that a part of the bone pierced the skin, and was taken out: it was a long time before it again got well, of course, the poor little fellow must have suffered very much with it.

This circumstance, with many others, if not equally distressing, one would think, was enough to be a warning to grown persons never to engage in it themselves, nor encourage little lads in the dangerous practice of wrestling.

FINIS.